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19 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Special Group (CI) on 19 December 1963

1. I briefed the Group on developments in countries on the counterinsurgency list generally along the lines of the 17 December OCI memorandum as augmented by the 19 December memorandum. Nothing unusual happened and I fielded the questions adequately.

2. On Item 2 I took exception to the complacency of the State Department briefing and, after discussion in which I was enthusiastically joined by Dave Bell and subsequently Governor Harriman but less enthusiastically by Defense and State, the net result was that it was decided to review the [redacted] team report at a meeting on 16 January and also to have a separate study prepared to take a hard look at what we have been doing [redacted]

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[redacted] over the past two or three years to determine whether or not this led to the successful results we have just undergone -- in other words, an evaluation of our program and experience [redacted]

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[redacted] to determine if we are on the right track in these other countries. The general consensus was that State Department was too complacent and that the situation was going to get worse in these terrorist-threatened countries before it got better -- further, that now was the time to increase our help rather than decrease it. The only real point Defense made was that they were beginning to feel our programs had reached the point where the countries in question lacked the competence and personnel to absorb any more help. Neither Bell nor I supported this view. [redacted] was present in case more details are needed.

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3. As an added item Governor Harriman stated that he had asked Tom Hughes to prepare a study of the political, economic, and military situation in North Vietnam. He suggested to Hughes

NSC review(s) completed.

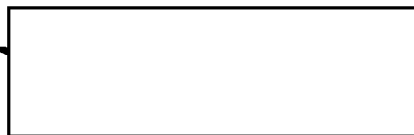
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that the Agency might be helpful in this regard. I would like DD/I to touch base with Hughes to find out if he needs any help and also to consider whether or not we should develop an Agency paper or even a SNIE in this regard. ✓

4. The agenda for the 9 January meeting was approved.



Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

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13 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Special Group (CI) Meeting, 12 December - 2:00 p. m.

McCone - reported as per papers.

Cottrell - U. S. to recognize the Dominican Republic and Honduras Saturday - want help on CI - DD/P to help Cottrell.

S. E. Asian report -

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War going badly particularly Delta. Has been going for long time - New Govt. admits this - Diem did not - Don spreading widely but this might straighten out - Diem Govt. alienated peasants and Sects like Hoa Hoa - More troops to the Delta - 2 divisions.

Thailand - Things going well but we must see - Thanom not strong - Danger of Thanom - axis U. S. Gen. Chitti - For moment things going well.

McCone - Raised questions of the Serong briefing of SVN on April 5th indicating a bad situation in the Delta and committee did nothing about it.

Forrestal report - Review of SVN - in Cambodia - Sihanouk in mental state safety of Americans of concern - Evacuation plans of Americans should be implemented - in Laos - Frustration in right wing - do not know where they are going - Agitation and movements by right wing military - Phoumi losing status - money shut off.

Thailand - Country Team not coordinated in Thailand - particularly in N. E. area.